

MAYOR
DAVID R. MARTIN



BOARD OF FINANCE

STAMFORD GOVERNMENT CENTER
888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
P.O. BOX 10152
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT 06904-2152

RICHARD FREEDMAN
CHAIRMAN
MARY LOU T. RINALDI
VICE CHAIR
GEOFF ALSWANGER
FRANK CERASOLI
DAVID MANNIS
KIERAN RYAN

TEL: (203) 977-4699
FAX: (203) 977-5030

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE

Pursuant to Section 6-20-2 of the *City of Stamford Charter*, Richard Freedman and Mary Lou Rinaldi called for a special meeting of the Board of Finance on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was held via webinar. (There was an executive session at 7:00 p.m.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session to discuss collective bargaining was held at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: CHAIR RICHARD FREEDMAN; VICE CHAIR MARY LOU RINALDI; AND MEMBERS GEOFF ALSWANGER, FRANK CERASOLI, DAVID MANNIS AND KIERAN RYAN.

OTHERS PRESENT: MAYOR DAVID MARTIN; TAMU LUCERO, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS; ANDY GEORGE, PRESIDENT BOARD OF EDUCATION; JACKIE HEFTMAN, MEMBER BOE; MARY FEDELI, MEMBER BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES; RYAN FEALEY, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE; KATHRYN EMMETT, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS; ALFRED CAVA, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES; ROBERT STACY, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES & TALENT ACQUISITION; AND THOMAS MOONEY AND GABRIEL JIRAN OF SHIPMAN & GOODWIN, LLP

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Richard Freedman called the special budget meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: CHAIR RICHARD FREEDMAN; VICE CHAIR MARY LOU RINALDI; AND MEMBERS GEOFF ALSWANGER, FRANK CERASOLI, DAVID MANNIS AND KIERAN RYAN.

OTHERS PRESENT: MAYOR DAVID MARTIN; SANDY DENNIES, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION; JAY FOUNTAIN, DIRECTOR OF OPM; TAMU LUCERO, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS; ANDY GEORGE, PRESIDENT BOARD OF EDUCATION; JACKIE HEFTMAN, MEMBER BOE; KATHRYN EMMETT, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS; ALFRED CAVA, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES; ROBERT STACY, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES & TALENT ACQUISITION AND RYAN FEALEY, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE; MONICA DI COSTELLO, CHAIR BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS LINDSEY MILLER; MARY FEDELI; DENNIS MAHONEY; J. R. MCMULLEN; SUSAN NABEL

1. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE MUNICIPAL BUDGETING PROCES BY CHAIR FREEDMAN.
Mr. Freedman spoke of how the budget process works, what the Board has done over the past two months and the process going forward. He introduced the members of the Board, their professional backgrounds and their backgrounds in public service. He spoke of COVID-19 impact, the Stamford budget process in a typical year vs this current year leading up to setting the mill rate on June 4, 2020.
2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Speakers: Michael Riveles, Annalisa DiNucci, Ruth Terry Walden, Helene Anglaret, Maria DeVito, Allyson Levy-Schencker, Maria Guzda, Alec logman
3. DISCUSSION ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET – SUPERINTENDENT LUCERO
Superintendent Tamu Lucero provided an update on the BOE budget. Two recent factors have had an impact on the budget: The Stamford Charter School for Excellence and Trinity High School will be closing and the district anticipates there will be an increase in the number of students attending school next year; and the economic impact of COVID-19 on the community. She discussed the impact of a \$15 million reduction to the Board of Education budget and listed her proposed reductions covering the entire scope of the Board of Education budget.
4. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED REDUCTIONS TO THE CITY BUDGET - MAYOR MARTIN
Mayor Martin said the City is continuing to examine the City budget. He discussed specific programs and budget reduction offsets. He discussed special events, leaf pick-up and offsets to specific BOF-suggested reductions.

Following his presentation, the Mayor provided answers to questions posed by members of the Board. He said that moving unused capital funds to the operating budget was extremely poor fiscal practice. The Mayor, Ms. Dennies and Ms. Emmett referred to State statutes that prohibit such action. For details of the discussion, please use the link to the video provided below.

Mr. Freedman said the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20 for further budget discussions and the Capital budget with the City.

There being no further questions, Mr. Freedman called for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn at 10:36 p.m. was made by Mr. Mannis, seconded by Mr. Cerasoli, and passed unanimously (6-0-0).

.

This meeting is on video.

Cynthia Winterle
Clerk of the Board